

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ADAM JAY STONE,
Plaintiff,
v.
C. PFEIFFER, et al.,
Defendants.

No. 1:21-cv-01461-SAB (PC)

TRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

Pretrial Hearing: March 21, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Motions in Limine Hearing: April 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

Jury Trial: April 29, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 9 (SAB); 2-3 Days

Plaintiff Adam Jay Stone is proceeding pro se in this civil rights action filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Both parties consented to Magistrate Judge jurisdiction. (ECF Nos. 10, 178.)

This action is proceeding Plaintiff's excessive force claim against Defendants B. Gonzales, G. Morales, K. Gonzales, and Anderson in violation of the Eighth Amendment. The case is ready to be set for jury trial.

This matter is set for a pretrial conference hearing on **March 21, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.** The matter is set for a 2 to 3 day jury trial beginning on **April 29, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.**

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1 In preparation of trial, the parties are required to file Pretrial Statements in accordance
2 with the schedule set forth herein. In addition to the matters already required to be addressed in
3 the pretrial statement in accordance with Local Rule 281, Plaintiff will be required to make a
4 particularized showing in order to obtain the attendance of witnesses. The procedures and
5 requirements for making such a showing are outlined in detail below.

6 **1. Pretrial Statement (Local Rule 281)**

7 Pursuant to Local Rule 281, the parties shall file a Pretrial Statement. Plaintiff shall file
8 his Pretrial Statement no later than **February 18, 2025**. Defendants shall file their Pretrial
9 Statement no later than **February 18, 2025**. The Pretrial Conference hearing will be held **March**
10 **21, 2025**, at 9:30 a.m. before the United States Magistrate Judge Stanley A. Boone in Courtroom
11 9.

12 The form and content of the Pretrial Statement must comply with Local Rule 281.
13 Pursuant to Local Rule 281(b), the Pretrial Statement shall including the following matters, under
14 the following captions, and in the following order:

15 **(1) Jurisdiction – Venue.** The factual and statutory basis of federal jurisdiction and
16 venue and whether there is any dispute concerning jurisdiction or venue;

17 **(2) Jury – Non-Jury.** Whether the party has demanded a jury trial of all or any of the
18 issues or, if not, whether a demand for jury trial made by any other party is conceded or
19 contested;

20 **(3) Undisputed Facts.** A plain, concise statement of the facts that are undisputed;

21 **(4) Disputed Factual Issues.** A plain, concise statement of each fact (and any related
22 essential facts) that the party claims or concedes to be in dispute;

23 **(5) Disputed Evidentiary Issues.** A plain, concise summary of any reasonably
24 anticipated disputes concerning admissibility of live and deposition testimony, physical and
25 demonstrative evidence and the use of special technology at trial, including computer animation,
26 video discs, and other high technology, and a statement whether each such dispute should be
27 resolved by motion in limine, briefed in the trial, brief, or addressed in some other manner;

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1 **(6) Special Factual Information in Certain Actions.** In addition to the facts and
2 issues described in (3) through (5), the following special information with respect to the following
3 types of actions shall be specified within either the disputed or undisputed facts sections as
4 appropriate:

5 (A) The date, place, and general nature of the incident; the particular acts,
6 omissions, or conditions constituting the basis for liability; the particular acts, omissions or
7 conditions

8 constituting the basis of any defense; any statute, ordinance, or regulation violated by
9 either party; the applicability of the doctrine of strict liability or *res ipsa loquitur*.

10 (B) Each plaintiff's age; injuries sustained; any prior injury or condition
11 worsened; periods of hospitalization; medical expenses and estimated future medical expenses;
12 the period of total and/or partial disability; annual, monthly, or weekly earnings before the
13 incident; earnings loss to date and estimated diminution of future earnings power; property
14 damage; general damages; punitive damages;

15 **(7) Relief Sought.** The elements of monetary damage, if any, and the specific nature
16 of any other relief sought;

17 **(8) Points of Law.** A statement of the legal theory or theories of recovery or of
18 defense and of any points of law (substantive or procedural) that are or may reasonably be
19 expected to be in controversy, citing the pertinent statutes, ordinances, regulations, cases, and
20 other authorities relied upon. Extended legal argument is not required in the pretrial statement;

21 **(9) Abandoned Issues.** A statement of all issues raised by the pleadings that have
22 been abandoned, including, for example, claims for relief and affirmative defenses;

23 **(10) Witnesses.** A list (names and addresses) of all prospective witnesses, whether
24 offered in person or by deposition or interrogatory, designating those who are expert witnesses.
25 Only witnesses so listed will be permitted to testify at the trial, except as may be otherwise
26 provided in the pretrial order;

27 **(11) Exhibits – Schedules and Summaries.** A list of documents or other exhibits that
28 the party expects to offer at trial. Only exhibits so listed will be permitted to be offered at trial

except as may be otherwise provided in the pretrial order.

(12) **Discovery Documents.** A list of all portions of depositions, answers to interrogatories, and responses to requests for admission that the party expects to offer at trial;

(13) **Further Discovery or Motions.** Any requests for further discovery or pretrial motions. Whether discovery and/or law and motion has been terminated by a Court order, counsel shall set forth the grounds for relief from that order and why a motion to be relieved was not made before the date ordered in the status conference for termination. Motions for relief at pretrial are not favored and will ordinarily be denied unless the moving party makes a strong showing;

(14) **Stipulations.** Any stipulations requested or offered for pretrial or trial purposes;

(15) **Amendments – Dismissals.** Any requested amendments to pleadings, dismissals, additions or subtractions of parties, or dispositions as to defaulting parties;

(16) **Settlement Negotiations.** A statement whether settlement negotiations between parties and/or a court settlement conference under L.R. 270 would be helpful;

(17) **Agreed Statements.** A statement whether presentation of all or part of the action upon an Agreed Statement of Facts is feasible and advisable;

(18) **Separate Trial of Issues.** A statement whether separate trial of any of the issues is feasible and advisable;

(19) **Impartial Experts – Limitation of Experts.** A statement whether appointment by the Court of impartial expert witnesses or limitation of the number of experts witnesses is advisable;

(20) **Attorneys' Fees.** A statement whether attorney's fees are sought and the time and manner in which they are to be ascertained. See L.R. 293;

(21) **Trial Exhibits.** Any special handling of trial exhibits and a statement of advisability of court retention of exhibits pending appeal decision. See L.R. 138(e);

(22) **Trial Protective Order.** Whether a trial protective order will be sought pursuant to L.R. 141.1(b)(2); and

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1 **(23) Miscellaneous.** Any other appropriate comments, suggestions, or information that
2 might aid in the disposition of the action, including references to any matters set forth in Fed. R.
3 Civ. P. 16(c).

4 **A party's failure to comply with any of these pretrial statement requirements may**
5 **result in the Court's excluding witnesses, evidence and/or legal issues related to the case at**
6 **trial.**

7 **2. Disclosure of Expert Witness:**

8 If either party desires to include expert witnesses at trial, they must comply with the
9 disclosure and timelines requirements set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(2)(2) and
10 (a)(2)(D).

11 **3. Plaintiff's Witness Procedures:**

12 Because the Plaintiff is an incarcerated state prisoner, the plaintiff must comply with
13 certain procedures associated with introducing evidence and bringing witnesses to trial. **A failure**
14 **to comply with these requirements will result in an exclusion of witnesses and/or trial**
15 **evidence and will not be just cause for continuance of the trial date.**

16 Plaintiff must be prepared to introduce evidence to prove each of the alleged facts that
17 support the claims raised in the lawsuit. In general, there are two kinds of trial evidence: (1)
18 exhibits and (2) the testimony of witnesses. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to produce all of the
19 evidence to prove his case, whether that evidence is in the form of exhibits or witness testimony.
20 If Plaintiff wants to call witnesses to testify, he must follow certain procedures to ensure that the
21 witnesses will be at the trial and available to testify. Plaintiff is advised that failure to comply
22 with the procedures set forth below may result in the preclusion of any and all witnesses named in
23 his pretrial statement. Notwithstanding the requirements set forth herein, a motion for the
24 attendance of incarcerated witnesses will only be granted by the Court if the moving party has
25 shown the witnesses have relevant information and the Court determines the witnesses' presence
26 will substantially further the resolution of the case. Wiggins v. Cnty. Of Alameda, 717 F.2d 466,
27 468 n.1 (9th Cir. 1983). The decision to grant or deny the motion is within the discretion of the
28 trial judge.

1 The following procedures are required to ensure the attendance of Plaintiff's witnesses at
2 trial. The witnesses may be incarcerated or unincarcerated and willing or unwilling to testify
3 voluntarily. Plaintiff should carefully review the procedures set forth below for filing motions
4 based on the different circumstances of each individual witness.

5 **a. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of *Incarcerated Witnesses Who Agree to***
6 **Testify Voluntarily**

7 An incarcerated witness who agrees voluntarily to attend trial to give testimony cannot
8 come to court unless the Court orders the warden or other custodian to permit the witness to be
9 transported to court. The Court will not issue such an order unless it is satisfied that the
10 prospective witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts.

11 A party intending to introduce the testimony of incarcerated witnesses who have agreed
12 voluntarily to attend the trial must serve and file a written motion for a court order requiring that
13 such witnesses be brought to court at the time of trial. The motion must: (1) state the name,
14 address, and prison identification number of each such witness; and (2) be accompanied by
15 declarations showing

16 that each witness is willing to testify and that each witness has actual knowledge of
17 relevant facts. The motion should be entitled "Motion for Attendance of Incarcerated Witnesses."

18 The willingness of the prospective witness can be shown in one of two ways: (1) the party
19 himself can swear by declaration under penalty of perjury that the prospective witness has
20 informed the party that he or she is willing to testify voluntarily without being subpoenaed, in
21 which declaration the party must state when and where the prospective witness informed the party
22 of this willingness; or (2) the party can serve and file a declaration, signed under penalty of
23 perjury by the prospective witness, in which the witness states that he or she is willing to testify
24 without being subpoenaed.

25 The prospective witness's actual knowledge of relevant facts can be shown in one of two
26 ways: (1) if the party has actual firsthand knowledge that the prospective witness was an
27 eyewitness or an ear-witness to the relevant facts (e.g., if an incident occurred in Plaintiff's cell
28 and, at the time, Plaintiff saw that a cellmate was present and observed the incident, Plaintiff may

1 swear to the cellmate's ability to testify), the party himself can swear by declaration under penalty
2 of perjury that the prospective witness has actual knowledge; or (2) the party can serve and file a
3 declaration signed under penalty of perjury by the prospective witness in which the witness
4 describes the relevant facts to which the prospective witness was an eye or ear witness. Whether
5 the declaration is made by the party or by the prospective witness, it must be specific about the
6 incident, when and where it occurred, who was present, and how the prospective witness
7 happened to be in a position to see or to hear what occurred at the time it occurred.

8 The Court will review and rule on the motion for attendance of incarcerated witnesses,
9 specifying which prospective witnesses must be brought to court. Subsequently, the Court will
10 issue the order necessary to cause the witness's custodian to bring the witness to court.

11 **Plaintiff shall file any motions for the attendance of incarcerated witnesses who are**
12 **willing to testify, on or before January 7, 2025. Oppositions, if any, must be filed on or**
13 **before January 21, 2025.**

14 **b. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of *Incarcerated Witnesses Who Refuse***
15 **to Testify Voluntarily**

16 If a party seeks to obtain the attendance of incarcerated witnesses who refuse to testify
17 voluntarily, the party must submit a motion for the attendance of such witnesses. An incarcerated
18 witness cannot come to court unless the Court orders the warden or other custodian to permit the
19 witness to be transported to court. The Court will not issue an order unless it is satisfied that the
20 prospective witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts. In addition, the party must indicate in
21 the motion that the incarcerated witnesses are not willing to testify voluntarily.

22 The motion must: (1) state the name, address, and prison identification number of each
23 such witness; and (2) be accompanied by a showing that each witness has actual knowledge of
24 relevant facts. The motion should be entitled "Motion for Attendance of Incarcerated Witnesses."

25 The prospective witness's actual knowledge of relevant facts can be shown in one of two
26 ways: (1) if the party has actual firsthand knowledge that the prospective witness was an
27 eyewitness or an ear-witness to the relevant facts (e.g., if an incident occurred in Plaintiff's cell
28 and, at the time, Plaintiff saw that a cellmate was present and observed the incident, Plaintiff may

swear to the cellmate's ability to testify), the party himself can swear by declaration under penalty of perjury that the prospective witness has actual knowledge; or (2) the party can serve and file a declaration signed under penalty of perjury by the prospective witness in which the witness describes the relevant facts to which the prospective witness was an eye or ear witness. Whether the declaration is made by the party or by the prospective witness, it must be specific about the incident, when and where it occurred, who was present, and how the prospective witness happened to be in a position to see or to hear what occurred at the time it occurred.

The Court will review and rule on the motion for attendance of incarcerated witnesses, specifying which prospective witnesses must be brought to court. Subsequently, the Court will issue the order necessary to cause the witness's custodian to bring the witness to court.

Plaintiff shall file any motions for the attendance of incarcerated witnesses who refuse to testify voluntarily, on or before January 7, 2025. Oppositions, if any, must be filed on or before January 21, 2025.

c. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of *Unincarcerated Witnesses Who Agree to Testify Voluntarily*

It is the responsibility of the party who has secured an unincarcerated witness's voluntary attendance to notify the witness of the time and date of trial. No action need be sought or obtained from the Court. However, the parties are advised that if a witness subsequently refuses to testify prior to trial, the Court will not continue the trial date to allow the party to compel the attendance of the witness at trial, absent a showing of extraordinary circumstances.

d. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of *Unincarcerated Witnesses Who Refuse to Testify Voluntarily*

If a prospective witness is not incarcerated, and he or she refuses to testify voluntarily, the witness must be served with a subpoena.¹ Fed. R. Civ. P. 45. In addition, the party seeking the witness's presence must tender an appropriate sum of money for the witness. Id. In the case of

¹ This section does not apply to individuals who are Defendants in this action, as Defendants are directed to be present at all times during the trial unless ordered by the court or upon stipulation. However, the parties are still required to list a party as a witness in their pretrial statement. A failure to list a party witness may foreclose that party from calling them as a witness in their case in chief.

1 an unincarcerated witness, the appropriate sum of money is the daily witness fee of \$40.00 plus
 2 the witness's travel expenses. 28 U.S.C. § 1821.

3 If Plaintiff wishes to obtain the attendance of one or more unincarcerated witnesses who
 4 refuse to testify voluntarily, Plaintiff must first notify the Court in writing of the name and
 5 location of each unincarcerated witness. The Court will calculate the travel expense for each
 6 unincarcerated witness and notify Plaintiff of the amount(s). Plaintiff must then, for each witness,
 7 submit a money order made payable to the witness for the full amount of the witness's travel
 8 expenses plus the daily witness fee of \$40.00. The subpoena will not be served upon the
 9 unincarcerated witness by the United States Marshal unless the money order is tendered to the
 10 Court. Because no statute authorizes the use of public funds for these expenses in civil cases, the
 11 tendering of witness fees and travel expenses is required even if the party was granted leave to
 12 proceed in forma pauperis.

13 **If Plaintiff wishes to have the United States Marshal serve any unincarcerated**
 14 **witnesses who refuse to testify voluntarily, Plaintiff must submit the money orders to the**
 15 **Court no later than January 21, 2025. In order to ensure timely submission of the money**
 16 **orders, Plaintiff must notify the Court of the names and locations of his witnesses, on or**
 17 **before January 7, 2025.**

18 **4. Motions In Limine Hearing and Briefing Schedule**

19 Any party may file a motion in limine, which is a procedural mechanism to limit in
 20 advance testimony or evidence in a particular area. United States v. Heller, 551 F.3d 1108, 1111
 21 (9th Cir. 2009). In the case of a jury trial, the Court's ruling gives Plaintiff and Defendants'
 22 counsel advance notice of the scope of certain evidence so that admissibility is settled before
 23 attempted use of the evidence before the jury. Id. at 1111-1112. Although the Federal Rules do
 24 not explicitly provide for the filing of motions in limine, the Court has the inherent power to hear
 25 and decide such motions as a function of its duty to expeditiously manage trials by eliminating
 26 evidence that is clearly inadmissible for any purpose. Luce v. United States, 469 U.S. 38, 41 n.4
 27 (1984).

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This Court further orders the parties to file motions in limine only with respect to important, critical issues. Motions in limine on abstract evidentiary issues or issues more appropriately addressed by the Court on a case-by-case basis (such as a motion in limine to exclude all irrelevant evidence) will be looked upon with disfavor. After satisfying the forgoing, if a motion in limine still seeks to address the admissibility of a particular trial exhibit, the exhibit in question must be referenced by the trial exhibit number so that the court can review the actual exhibit for admissibility. If the exhibit sought to be admitted would not be in the court's possession one week prior to the motion in limine hearing, then the exhibit in question must be included in the motion. Failure to properly reference or attach an exhibit in the motion will result in the request being denied.

The parties shall not file separate motions in limine for every issue presented to the Court. Rather, if a party wishes to file a motions in limine, each party shall file one consolidated motion in limine which is subdivided into separate sections for each issue setting for the legal authority and analysis. The responding party shall file one opposition in response addressing each motion in limine issue in a separate section.

The deadline for service and filing of motions in limine is **March 11, 2025**. The deadline for service and filing of an opposition, if any, is **March 25, 2025**. A motions in limine hearing will be held on **April 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**, in Courtroom 9, before the undersigned. Counsel for Defendants is directed to arrange contact with Plaintiff and to contact the Courtroom Deputy, Jan Nguyen, at (559) 499-5672, prior to the hearing date, to receive instructions regarding the conference call.

5. Pre-Marked and Exchange of Exhibits

As noted below, no later than **March 11, 2025**, the parties shall exchange their final exhibit list and pre-marked exhibits, to be addressed at the **April 10, 2025**, motion in limine hearing.

All exhibits must be pre-marked with an exhibit sticker or other legible numbering/lettering. This requirement that exhibits be pre-marked applies both to evidence that will be formally admitted into evidence as well as any other exhibits that will be presented in any

manner during trial, such as “demonstrative” evidence. Each individual “original” exhibit that will be submitted to the jury must be stapled/fastened so that the exhibit does not become separated. Further, exhibits submitted to the jury must be pre-marked on the front page only in the manner described above. Impeachment or rebuttal evidence need not be pre-marked. However, evidence of bias, extrinsically introduced, must be pre-marked.

- a. **Joint Exhibits:** Joint exhibits are those exhibits which all parties agree may be admitted into evidence without the need for laying a proper foundation under the Federal Rules of Evidence. Joint exhibits must be pre-marked with the designation “J-[Number]” (e.g., J-1, J-2). Those exhibits may be introduced at any time during the course of the trial. However, joint exhibits are not “automatically” admitted into evidence: at least one of the parties must admit a joint exhibit into evidence. If an exhibit is not admitted by any party, the exhibit will not be given to the jury despite its “joint” designation as an exhibit.
- b. **Plaintiff’s Exhibits:** Plaintiff’s exhibits must be pre-marked using **numbers** beginning with 1 (e.g., 1, 2, etc.).
- c. **Defendants’ Exhibits:** Defendants’ exhibits must be pre-marked using **letters** beginning with A (e.g., A, B, C...AA, BB, CC...AAA, BBB, CCC, etc.).

No later than **March 11, 2025**, the parties shall exchange their proposed exhibits to allow for the parties to file objections to be addressed at the motion in limine hearing on **April 10, 2025**. Because Plaintiff is incarcerated, he shall submit his exhibits to the Litigation Coordinator at the **Kern Valley State Prison**, on or before the above-referenced deadline. Further instructions on the submission and use of exhibits during trial will be provided in the pretrial order in this matter, to be filed after the pretrial hearing noted above.

Defendants are required to submit trial exhibits for both parties in binders. Counsel shall submit three **(3) complete, legible and identical sets of exhibits in binders** on or about **April 21, 2025**. Within the binders, the pre-marked exhibits must be separately tabbed and assembled in sequential order. All of Plaintiff’s exhibits shall be marked sequentially beginning with 1 (e.g., 1, 2, etc.). All of Defendants’ exhibits shall be marked sequentially beginning with A (e.g., A, B,

C...AA, BB, CC...AAA, BBB, CCC, etc.). The binders shall be delivered to Courtroom Deputy Clerk Jan Nguyen prior to trial at a date set forth in the pretrial order.

CONCLUSION AND ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. This matter is set for videoconference pretrial hearing before the Honorable Stanley A. Boone on **March 21, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.** in Courtroom 9. The Court may vacate the hearing on the matter if it deems the hearing not necessary;

2. Motions in limine are due on or before **March 11, 2025**. Oppositions to the motions in limine are due on or before **March 25, 2025**. This matter is set for a videoconference motion in limine hearing before the Honorable Stanley A. Boone on **April 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**, in Courtroom 9. The Court may vacate the hearing on the matter if it deems the hearing not necessary;

3. This matter is set for jury trial before the Honorable Stanley A. Boone on **April 29, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.** in Courtroom 9;

4. Counsel for Defendants is required to arrange for the participation of Plaintiff in the pretrial conference hearing and motions in limine hearing and to contact Courtroom Deputy, Jan Nguyen, at (559) 499-5672, prior to the hearing date, to receive instructions regarding the conference call;

5. Plaintiff shall serve and file a pretrial statement as described in this order on or before **February 18, 2025**;

6. Defendants shall serve and file a pretrial statement as described in this order on or before **February 18, 2025**;

7. In addition to electronically filing their pretrial statement, Defendants shall e-mail the pretrial statement to: **saborders@caed.uscourts.gov**;

8. If Plaintiff intends to call incarcerated witnesses at the time of trial, Plaintiff shall serve and file a motion for attendance of incarcerated witnesses as described in this order on or before **January 7, 2025**;

9. The opposition to the motion for the attendance of incarcerated witnesses, if any,

1 shall be filed on or before **January 21, 2025**; and

2 10. If Plaintiff wishes to obtain the attendance of unincarcerated witnesses who refuse
3 to testify voluntarily, Plaintiff must notify the Court of their names and locations on or before
4 **January 7, 2025**, and Plaintiff must submit the money orders, as described in subsection 4 of this
5 order, to the Court on or before **January 21, 2025**.

6
7 IT IS SO ORDERED.

8 Dated: **December 5, 2024**



STANLEY A. BOONE
United States Magistrate Judge